(12)

1907

30 July

Seend.

46, Gordon Square,

Bloomsbury.

Your letter has come by the Tuesday afternoon post- & charming letter. Billy. I'll write tomorrow

Hey Billy.

I wish you were back in London again but fancy about into all the road smells here with your little black nose. We had the arrival of the rest of the family to keep us alive yesterday, all managed as you may imagine with great common sense & calmness. Dorothy seems to be of anything the better for her journey - How do

46, Gordon Square,
Bloomsbury.

they manage it? I have not seen her yet. Two nurses invade the house, which makes me feel quite at home. Though it is a blessing that I have not to go in & talk to them. The doctor is quite nice but I should think he'd find life here rather dull. We are really very well off. for we have now established ourselves in Clive's dressing room where we spend the morning. I paint & he writes & we see no one till lunch.

NYPL

& we do not alone together
in the afternoon, when the
rest of the family always
have exercise of some kind
to occupy themselves with.
So we shall see very little
of them except at meals
& for about an hour after
dinner every night.
I have begun to write
my biography - I don't
think you will find me
a rival to you. Billy - the
literary style will be
mixed & discursive. I
find that I shall have so
much to say that it will
take me years to write.
Did you see Miss Lind?
I hope you gave her my love.

I feel I ought to be polite to her. If she is going to be in London in the winter I must see her. I am prepared to believe that she is really very nice as you think for I can't say I know her at all.

I hope I shall hear from you tomorrow. my mother NYPL take care of yourself don't starve or do anything foolish. I know you aren't at all to be trusted & I see quite plainly that you will have to take up your abode with me again before very long. Aunt Goat will be a feature of my establishment & probably essential to the happiness of the nursery.

Yr Marion

T. PARSONS 3-2-73

(15)

31 July 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Wednesday

My Billy.

I had a letter from you after writing to you yesterday, a very nice one all about the portable charms of my babies. I'm inclined to take a more cheerful view of them myself in consequence & I daresay they'll be full of whimsicalities & charms & we shall be a delightful family where you will feel really domesticated & at home - the domestic strain in you is very odd. How do you account for it? Perhaps it's the sign of real genius. If you were

only very clever & wonderful care for such things.

I have just had a letter from Dora saying that, owing to a financial crisis there, she won't be able to pay any visits this summer & can't come to Rye - & at present we have Ness & me in prospect but Walter Lamb & Lytton Strachey - & possibly Saxon at the end of September. Have you got your visitors arranged & are they definitely yet?

It poured minutes & elephants yesterday all the afternoon &

hailed too. I went for my
first drive in the pony [redacted] to
after tea but we were
drenched & had to come in.
I'm afraid my pony cart
won't come off very well.

They have been rather worried
about Dorothy for the last
few days as she has had
a high temperature every
afternoon. but the doctor
does not seem to think much
of it & I expect it will stop
in a day or two. It is a
good thing you are out here.
Billy, with your hatred of
the hospital atmosphere - for
talk of diseases is the
only variation in talk of the
weather.

How is Adrian getting on?
I suppose he prefers you to

Friday. My husband is going to write to you soon I think. I am reading Lovelace when I like. Is it true that Thackeray was in love with Gramercy? I ask for the purposes of my biography!

NYPL

I hope Wombat will see to Rye before the 26th Otherwise I shall find him on the road & shall have to pick him up & put up with his company most of the way. But I suppose he should some time off.

Love & kisses

Yours Marie.

Yours letter just come - which I will answer tomorrow.

(19

2 August 1907

Friday.

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Dear Billy.

We are going up to the house this afternoon & I'll write in case I haven't time & write when we come in. I will just scribble this line & send you that I haven't forgotten you. Donia comes too, very luck - How I wish it were my funny self instead. I had a

nice long letter from
you yesterday - Just
what exactly describes
Meg. How appalling
those people are -
how I must stop but
I may have time to
or when I come in.

We are just back & I
found your letter waiting
for me. It's really horrible
how you succeed in your
profession. The Faustian
gentleman must be a fool -
Even I didn't battle you

at the foot of the Isles.
We had a nice afternoon
if it hadn't been, I must tell
that I had hayfever badly
going there & it was cold
& raining coming back.
However the downs are very
beautiful & there were lots
shepherds & their flock & a
charming sheep-dog. You
would have seen it in the
right spirit. It is odd to
be living once more in a
family with two generations
I think the drawbacks
& family life strike me
very much. But no doubt
there are more in this
family than there would
be in an intelligent one.

But the machinery is very cumbrous. as you have always said. Long meals & endless sitting afterwards & all the small tiresome conventions which seem unable to be upset. Today Lorna & Mrs Bell said that I really must go & see a little of Paris & be shown the neighbourhood. I flatly refused & shall go & nothing else had warned me that it was the only thing to do - but Lorna is obstinate & I may have to fight. However my experience with George tells me that the only thing to do is to refuse to argue with her. I am amused at

NYPL

1911

2 Aug '07

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

George is calling on us - & at the scarlet-fever scare. I talked to the doctor here about it & he said it was absurd - that there was scarlet-fever everywhere & that it was easily avoided. I am very afraid lest they should take it into their heads to come to Rye which would be too awful - Do you think if Sophy was discreet or do you think she let out about my infant? Now I must stop

as I have left
see Dooley - find
night -, sweet Wilma
Yr mama
NYPL
Biography has
reached page 11

(17) 3 August 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Saturday.

My Billy.

It's really absurd of you to imagine I'm ill when I don't write - for you yourself sometimes sin. How do I know that you mayn't be concealing all kinds of diseases about in Egypt? You at any rate know that my husband would act in great practical common sense in any emergency - wouldn't he Billy? whereas Goodness knows what you wouldn't be up to - I suppose I'll thought

you writing very ill or
something. didnt she? You
can speak openly, for. accordg
to your commands, your
letters are now private.
Trail may have smelled it
may about her - it would
they'd make me sneeze -
but she certainly does make
me think of all kinds of
horrible things & people.
suppose I shall never see
her again which is a mercy.
but you will be burdened
with her for life. She is a
warning against ever making
friends with hospital nurses
As you may see. Billy, I

do as I fro away I should, write very dull letters from this place. But you know how my days are spent- This morning I painted Clive, having refused to dine into Designs with Mrs Bell. & then came down to the family lunch. I shall soon devote a chapter of my biography to family life. What shall I do with my family at 4 when they grow up. I am beginning to think 2 will be enough. Do you think we shall gradually fall into all the old abuses & that I shall have any idea what my children are like or what they want to do? I am

honestly terrified sometimes
of the responsibility of having
any children. I'm not sure
it doesn't mean hanging
the most terrific millstone
round one's neck. What do
you think? I can look at
it calmly now but when
I have them I shall probably
be so unreasonably fond of
them that it won't strike me
in that light. But all the
same I doubt it. I shall
be a good parent. I think
I shall probably hate the
practical part too much -
Think of taking them to
the dentist & looking after
them when they've measles.
I suppose I can turn it
all in to [illegible] things?
Take care of yourself my monkey.
Do not stable the air & eat enough.
What did you say to Jamshaw? Yours
Diana.

(13)

5 Aug 1907

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

Monday.

My Billy.

I wonder how you are passing your solitary bank. holiday. It's a beastly day anywhere. but I daresay you like being a hermit & I hope you're writing a long letter to me full of your views, not Wales's, on family life. Not that I didn't enjoy Wales's lot. but I feel sure your old mind is stored with clear wisdom

on the subject & I think
of how I fished in it
last year walking round
the garden with the fear
of toads in my heart!
In about 3 weeks now we
shall be in Rye - thank
God - I don't really mean
to complain of this as
much as I may seem to -
but Clive & I agree that it
is depressing & hope our
children will get on each
other's nerves & have
all kinds of peculiarities
which will have to be

treated & humoured & kept
us & them alive. With
you both a small country
house with us some day
somewhere in country with
a good character & it.
is that we can come
there or send our family
there instead of letting
them come & get all their
instincts blunted here?
I have a terror of the
inheritance that may
await the poor little
beasts in the shape of Bell
conventionalities. How can
they escape? Stupidity
seems to overwhelm me
when we lives with it &

like quite irreparable.
I see that Clive has taken
up the only possible attitude
& the one that I always
might have taken up
with George. One might
let go one's own way without
argument or fuss & without
attempting to make the
stupid see one's point of view
& when asked to do things
that one does not want
to do one might give
a half jocular refusal
& stick to it, which is
the only way of baffling
them. I haven't had to
put this into practice &
but I shall keep it down as

(13)

CLEEVE HOUSE,
MELKSHAM,
WILTS.

a guide for future conduct.
It really surprises me to
find me utterly impossible
it is to make the average
understanding see what
one is driving at. One
thing I see will be im-
possible. & that is to send
our offspring here alone
much. There is no knowing
what would not happen
to them.

This letter will not go
till tomorrow morning, there
being no second post out today.

I am very lazy & inflict
grumbles upon you, Billy,
chiefly because I can't
paint. My brains, too, seem
to have deserted me -
Lorna has gone off to watch
cricket. Dorothy had in-
digestion two days ago & is
not going out in consequence.
Though she is better again.
Mrs Ball worries a good deal
about her & spends her days
I think at small jobs.
Mr. Ball is very busy over I
don't know what & Clive
smiles a good deal & reads
S. Now you know just how

we pass our time & I feel
that we are typical of
all the country households
in England.

Do I write very dull
& depressing letters? I
must stop now as it's
time for tea & punctuality
is a virtue in this house
So good night-Sweet-William

Yours Maria.

I am very lazy & inflict
grumbles upon you. Billy,
chiefly because I can't
paint. My brains, too, seem
to have deserted me -
Vanessa has gone off to watch
cricket! Dorothy had in-
digestion two days ago & is
not going out in consequence.
Though she is better again.
Mrs Ball worries a good deal
about her & spends her days
I think at small jobs.
Mr. Ball is very busy over I
don't know what & Clive
writes a good deal & reads
So now you know just how

NYPL

pass our time
we ~~spend~~ & I feel
that we are typical of
all the country households
in England.

Do I write very dull
& depressing letters? I
must stop now as it's
time for tea & punctuality
is a virtue in this house
So good night-Sweet-William
from Maria.